

HEALTHCARE INTERPRETATIONS TASK FORCE INTERPRETATION

Number: HITF.2005.002

Date: June 7, 2005

Code: NFPA 101, 7.2.1.6.1, 18.2.2.2.4, 19.2.2.2.4; 2000 Edition

Code Language:

7.2.1.6.1 Delayed-Egress Locks. Approved, listed, delayed-egress locks shall be permitted to be installed on doors serving low and ordinary hazard contents in buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 9.6, or an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7, and where permitted in Chapters 12 through 42, provided that the following criteria are met. (a) The doors shall unlock upon actuation of an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7 or upon the actuation of any heat detector or activation of not more than two smoke detectors of an approved, supervised automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 9.6.

18.2.2.2.4 Doors within a required means of egress shall not be equipped with a latch or lock that requires the use of a tool or key from the egress side.

Exception No. 2:* Delayed-egress locks complying with 7.2.1.6.1 shall be permitted, provided that not more than one such device is located in any egress path.

19.2.2.2.4

Doors within a required means of egress shall not be equipped with a latch or lock that requires the use of a tool or key from the egress side.

Exception No. 2:* Delayed-egress locks complying with 7.2.1.6.1 shall be permitted, provided that not more than one such device is located in any egress path.

Did this question arise from an actual field situation? Yes

Please state your business interest in the matter and identify other parties involved:

Healthcare facilities are being cited for a deficiency if the delayed-egress locks do not automatically unlock upon manual activation of the fire alarm system. Not only are the facilities being cited for a deficiency, but they are also being cited for having immediate jeopardy resulting in endangering the lives of many patients. The immediate jeopardy claim results in heavy financial penalties.

Question: Do Sections 18 & 19.2.2.2.4 Exception No. 2 or Section 7.2.1.6.1 of the 2000 Life Safety Code require delayed-egress locks installed on doors in the means of egress to automatically unlock upon manual activation of the fire alarm system?

Answer: NO.